

5/28/94

Dear Mr. Files,

Thanks for your letter. The short answer to your question is that I do not believe Lloyd Jowers' story and I have no idea why he has said these things.

Please excuse my typing. I'm 81, unwell and it cannot be any better.

After my book on the King assassination was published I became Ray's investigator, unpaid. I conducted the investigation for the habeas corpus petition and when that succeeded, based on that investigation, I conducted the investigation for the two weeks of ~~V~~videntiary hearing in Memphis that was to determine whether Ray got a trial. The approach was mine, the lawyers agreed with it, and I produced the witnesses who in effect exculpated Ray. Judge MacRae in the end held that guilt or innocence were not material to what was before him. One of those I interviewed was Lloyd Jowers. He is among those I used to prove that Ray's car was not there at the time of the crime and for some time before it. He was amply confirmed by others I produced as witnesses on that. In the interviews and as a witness he was calm, unruffled, untroubled -- not at all what you would expect of a man with the kind of involvement he now says he had.

One reason, additional reason I do not believe his story now is that it is refuted by evidence of which he has no knowledge. There are details of which he does not know that make his story impossible. and there is much with which it is too inconsistent. I am aware that a black waitress who'd worked for him has given his story some confirmation. I cannot explain that.

His place then was Jim's Grill. Ray had rented a room in the flophouse the bottom floors of which were two businesses, Jowers' and Guy W. Canipe's second-hand record store the late morning of the crime. I did not know that Jowers had give that business up or had a convenience store. I also find the stories of his considerable wealth not easy to believe. I am aware that ^{Ray's} his new lawyer got permission to test-fire the alleged Ray rifle. I have already proven that it was not used in the crime so if those tests turn out to be dependable, and with all the times that rifle has been fired since then they may not, it adds nothing the existing proof presented in federal court.

I hope there is a trial. There should be. Perhaps with less evidence than the federal judge had the state court may order a trial. I doubt it but I hope it happens.

For the record for history if you see any stories or hear any more I'll appreciate knowing. I do not get the Memphis papers and no longer have any contacts there. I am also interested in any more that surfaces about ~~DEE~~ Jowers and his story. Thanks and best wishes,

Arnold Weisberg

